

Transportation Commission Minutes

June 22, 2011

Kathy Moehring called the Transportation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Roll was called and the following was recorded:

Members Present:

Philip Tribuzio
Thomas G. Bertken
Jesus Vargas
Kathy Moehring
Kirsten Zazo

Staff Present:

Obaid Khan, Supervising Civil Engineer
Alan Ta, Junior Engineer
Daraja Wagner, Administrative Assistant

2. Minutes

Commissioner Kathy Moehring moved approval of the minutes for the March 23, 2011, meeting and minutes as presented. *Commissioner Jesus Vargas* seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Oral Communications – Non-Agenda

John Spangler stated that he was pleased to see the commissioners, and informed everyone that he was now one of two representatives for the Alameda County BART Bicycle Accessibility Task Force. *Spangler* stated that he is seeking information on how BART affected them.

Commissioner Vargas extended a congratulations to Spangler.

Commissioner Moehring stated that she was happy to have one of our own serve as a representative.

4. New Business

4A. Presentation of Quarterly Report on Activities Related to Transportation Policies and Plans.

Staff Khan summarized the staff report.

Open public hearing.

Commissioner Bertken stated that it will be a work in progress for a long time. We will need to constantly grow to fit the needs of the city.

Staff Khan responded that he agreed that Alameda Point will grow in phases, so the transportation system will too. Maybe shuttle systems should be in place first, then transition into buses. It will be a growing system that grows with the project. A grant was received from the Caltrans Highway Safety Improvement Program for \$964,000 with \$733,000 from the state and \$231,000 as the local match to coordinate Park Street lights.

Commissioner Vargas stated that he thought *Staff* should read the article on Alameda Patch on the Estuary Crossing Shuttle. *Commissioner Vargas* also asked about the locations of bike storage.

Staff Khan responded that they were negotiating with Oakland as well as AC Transit. *Staff* is trying to find out if there is space on the street for a bus stop as well as amenities for bicyclists and pedestrians. There is no conclusion yet *staff* is still developing the plan.

Commissioner Vargas asked if the plan was adjustable.

Staff Khan responded that it was absolutely adjustable. *Staff Khan* stated that we have to respond to the users so that they will continue to use the system because if they do not we will lose funding. The Estuary Crossing Shuttle is only funded for one year.

Commissioner Moehring asked what it would cost the businesses for extra bike racks.

Staff Khan responded that if businesses need them to provide bike racks then the city would provide the racks through funding from Measure B and city maintenance workers would install them on public street right-of-way.

Commissioner Moehring stated that she thought that this shuttle was fabulous. *Commissioner Moehring* asked if *staff* was talking with WABA. *Commissioner Moehring* stated that Dr. Jackson was now the permanent president for College of Alameda, which will be great moving forward because she is aware of the community and its challenges. *Commissioner Moehring* asked under the pedestrian plan in August 2010 if there is any way for the commission to obtain the old report so that when they see the new report they will be able to have a reference.

Staff Khan stated that he would have to think of the best process.

Commissioner Moehring stated that four out of the five commissioners had not seen the report and asked Staff Khan if he could send it via e-mail. *Commissioner Moehring* stated that she thought staff had done a great job!

Commissioner Zazo asked when were the pick-up and drop-off times for the Estuary Crossing Shuttle.

Staff Khan stated that they would be during the two peak hours with one in the morning between 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., and in the evening between 3:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Commissioner Zazo stated that she was concerned since things change constantly and stated that she thought staff should look into the class schedules for the times when they have the most traffic to accommodate the schedule.

Staff Khan stated that College of Alameda was a partner, and would keep the shuttle parked overnight on their property. *Staff Khan* also stated that the shuttle would be fueled up in west Oakland.

Close public hearing.

No action was taken.

4B. Appeal of Public Works Director' Decision to Remove of Red Curb on San Jose Avenue at Jackson Park to Increase Parking

Staff Khan summarized report.

Karen Larson, a resident of Park Avenue for three years, asked on behalf of the residents of Park Street, to please reconsider. Larson stated that she was concerned because many accidents occur on that street and go unreported. There have been two collisions this year and more will come because the sight lines are hard to see.

Larson presented a petition with 30 signatures on it; 20 from homes in the area and the rest from people who frequent the area. *Larson* also presented a google map that showed the corner where most of the accidents are. *Larson* stated that six have occurred in four years. Larson showed photos she took standing North looking East (photo 1A), and also West (1B). In photo 1C, three cars were added into the photo to show how crowded it looks.

2A, 2B, and 2C all show the opposite view of the original photos taken. In the last photo, Larson shows the proposed parking space. Larson acknowledged that she was aware that parking is a premium in that neighborhood; however, it was her community. Larson stated that there were 138 unrestricted parking spots around the park and an additional 35 totaling 173 altogether. On Thursdays, there are only 100 to 110 parking spots available due to street sweeping.

Larson stated that people must be encouraged to take the bus. Larson lastly stated that this was a daytime issue not a residential one and she did not want residents to be jeopardized over it.

Amy, who is a resident mom of two kids, stated that it is hard for her to see when using the crosswalk because there is low visibility due to all the parked cars. Amy also stated that most cars do not adhere to the speed limit.

Betsy Malconism stated that she has lived on Park Avenue for ten years. Malconism states that double parking occurs on both sides of the street because there are no cuts for driveways. Malconism stated that the park was the oldest park in Alameda and not a parking lot. Malconism asked the commission to please change their mind about adding the parking.

Commissioners' comments:

Staff Khan read a letter in support of the parking being added asking if there could be a compromise of adding only four parking spaces instead of six.

Commissioner Moehring thanked everyone for the information. *Commissioner Moehring* stated that in regards to the accidents, they occur because people break the law.

Commissioner Vargas asked for clarification in light of being in the community, *Commissioner Vargas* asked what did the local businesses think. *Commissioner Vargas* asked what was the time when the accidents occurred. *Commissioner Vargas* also asked if adding speed bumps would help make the area safer.

Staff Khan stated that everyone must look at what a change in the street will create and or trigger. In regards to the pedestrian crossing issue, *Staff Khan* stated that we must work with the community. *Staff Khan* also stated that letters were sent out within 300 feet of the impacted area.

Commissioner Tribuzio stated that speed bumps can be looked at as a consideration either way whether the parking spots were added or not. *Commissioner Tribuzio* commented that speed bumps would help slow down the traffic and accidents.

Staff Khan stated that the issue with inserting speed bumps is the response time for emergency vehicles. *Staff Khan* also stated that it was a traffic calming suggestion, and the discussion right now was about parking; however, the comment would be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Moehring stated that she was sympathetic with the issues around the poor visibility; however, these were all traffic calming related issues. *Commissioner Moehring* stated that the city must look at which order they must place things. *Commissioner Moehring* stated that when she first read the memo she thought that adding six parking spaces was great. The area was nicely scoped out in a business area close to the park where traffic moved through quickly, not realizing that the daytime parking was not the residents own. *Commissioner Moehring* stated that traffic calming solutions in this area need to be looked into such as the crosswalks being painted brighter, or maybe striped crosswalks that give the illusion of it being a speed bump. At this time, she was confused of the compromise that could be reached with the pedestrian safety issues. Maybe awareness about the issue should be raised. *Commissioner Moehring* stated that the work that everyone did as far as bringing in documents and pictures was tremendous.

Commissioner Moehring hoped that in regards to the parking she hoped that maybe a solution could be reached like maybe only four parking spots being added instead of six.

Staff Khan reminded the commission to focus on the purpose of the appeal, and not to take unrelated concerns into account. *Staff Khan* stated that parking would create calming on the street. With the parking being added, the street would become narrower and in turn, cars would slow down to drive on the narrower street.

Commissioner Moehring reminded everyone that the reason why the parking came into suggestion in the first place was because someone saw that the street had a red zone that was not being used. There were no complaints made from residents that there was not enough parking, someone just simply saw that the space was being unused and that it could be used as extra space for parking. *Commissioner Moehring* extended an appreciation to the staff for all of their hard work.

Commissioner Vargas stated that in the event that the appeal did not get accepted that the other issues were taken into account to be discussed.

Commissioner Moehring stated that the other issues were a separate request, and asked for a yay or nay in regard to the motion at hand.

<p><i>Commissioner Bertken</i> moved to approve the appeal. <i>Commissioner Tribuzio</i> seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1. <i>Commissioner Vargas</i> opposed.</p>
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Commissioner Zazo stated that a lot of things that happen go undocumented. *Commissioner Zazo* suggested that more than just the written documents should be looked up, other things like the history of the park and its trolley. *Commissioner Zazo* stated that she felt that staff should come back with a clear vision and a benefit analysis.

Staff Khan stated that the Historic Advisory Board did look into things and were not able to find more information. Staff will forward the concerns to the appropriate bodies.

Commissioner Moehring thanked staff again, and apologized for not going with their recommendation.

Close public hearing.

5. Staff Communications

Alameda County Transportation Commission Paratransit Advisory Committee (PAPCO) is looking for a new member representing the City of Alameda. *Staff Khan* asked if anyone had someone in mind for the position.

Commissioner Vargas asked how frequent were the meetings.

Staff Khan stated that the meetings were on a monthly basis, but he was not sure of the details and would follow up.

Information was passed out for New Paratransit Shuttle routes, a lot of good feedback was given from the city council.

The Guaranteed Ride Home Program is a benefit from the county for every employer and employee. In the event of an emergency, employees could get a ride home. It is paid for by tax monies.

Fruitvale Bridge Seismic work means an impact to the water will occur, not the streets.

Status of Boards and Commissions Restructuring has no new news at this time

Future Meeting Agenda Items

Staff will present TSM/TDM strategies at a future meeting. Staff will work with the Chair on items.

Commissioner Bertken asked what percentage of funds to work with the commission was covered by Measure B.

Staff Khan replied that all of it was, stating that there was no general fund monies involved with the Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Vargas asked in regards to the last two agenda items if it was possible to get updates at every meeting or every other meeting.

Staff Khan replied that the committee has not restarted, that they were in the process of getting appointments.

6. Announcements

7. Adjournment

8:21 PM